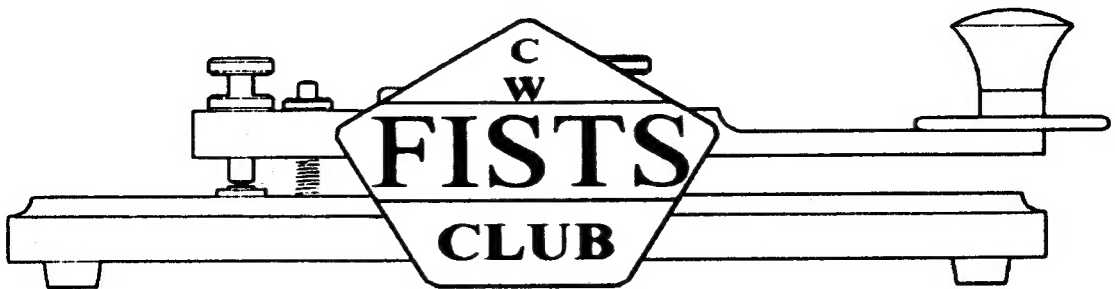


The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

HOW DO I...?

...JOIN? Membership is open to everyone interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions are \$15.00/year. Under 18 is \$10/year. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge. Only one newsletter will be mailed per household. to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440-0047.

...RENEW? Send \$15/year (\$10/year for under 18) to FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047. Your renewal date is on your mailing label -- please look at it!! *Renewal notices are not mailed out individually.*

...SEND APP OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND? For a FISTS brochure, send an email to Joe Pardue, at <w5os@arrl.net> with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero LA 70072-5055. Applications are also on the FISTS Webpage.

... ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene Kott, WO8E, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers 200 for \$5; "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50; Blue enamel /gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50; FISTS coffee mugs \$7.50; **FISTS Club T-Shirts M and L only**, \$9.00. Rubber stamps with FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5.00

*****Pse make checks out to FISTS, these prices DO include Priority postage.*****

... GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST? Send a SASE with \$2.00 (US) to cover printing/ mailing costs to Ed Hayes, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Lists are also available on the FISTS Web page.

...Join the FISTS On-Line Email List? For periodic Email updates on FISTS activities and information, send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Brian W8BL at his Email address: blafont@tir.com

...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Stan Reas, K4UK, runs the Buro. Send SASEs and FISTS member cards only (DX and NA) to him at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121.

...SPONSOR A DX FISTS? DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB32LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

...APPLY FOR THE CENTURY AWARD? Send a list of contacts (call, FISTS#, qth, date, band and power) used to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, at 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the regular Century Award. If you are applying for the UK issued awards, send your request to HQ in England (Bob Lowe, 12 Cavenham Grove, Darwin England BL14UA including \$5 US cash (no checks or money orders).

... VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODEBUDDY? Write to Margaret L. Putman, 502 Marguerite St., Elgin, IL 60123. We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!!

...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken Kott, W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION to give at a local club meeting? It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need. Contact Joe, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016. email: kk5na@quadj.com

...FIND THE WEB PAGE? <http://www.FISTS.org>

...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at <KK4KF@LizardCop.com

...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? For pricing info send SASE to WX9X at 1608 E. Lincolnway, Suite H - Valparaiso, IN 46383. A scan of the QSL card is on our FISTS Web page.

...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE? Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and Int'l Morse Preservation Society in white. They are \$8.20 postpaid from The Signman of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann, W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd., Medford, NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

...IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEWFRIENDS? Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests!

The Keynote, official publication of FISTS CW Club, is published approximately 10 times a year by Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440. WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, suitability and space limitations.. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. **Articles from the Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.**



The Key Note

The North American Memo Version by Nancy Kott WZ8C
USA and DX member news and activities

International

Morse Preservation
Society - Issue 4, 01

Slow Traffic Net:
Tuesday and Thurs-
day 9PM EST on
3.682

Slow RagChewing
Group: Wednesday at
9PM EST on 3.720

Volunteer Net Con-
trols needed to run
the Century Net on
Sunday afternoon
on 14.058 MHz

Saturday QSO Groups:
2000Z on 14.058 MHz
and 7.058 MHz at
2300Z.

Sunday Slow Speed
Chat: 21.158 MHz at
1700Z

30 Meter calling fre-
quency: 10.118

Please keep watch on
the Novice subbands
and frequencies ending
in .x58 -- but PLEASE
spread out. There have
been over 7000 FISTS
numbers issued now, if
we all try and chat on
these frequencies all
anyone will get is a lot
of QRM. Please be
courteous of nets and
QSOs in progress.

Courtesy At All Times!

If you move please
send your address
change to WZ8C. It
costs FISTS 60 cents
for each undelivered
Keynote due to
address changes. This
really adds up!

Hello FISTS! Spring
has finally sprung
here in Mid-Michigan. Even though
most of my yard is
mud as a result of the
bulldozers and ce-
ment trucks tearing up
the lawn when we put
a basement under this
house, some dafodills
and tulips managed to
survive. So, looking
out my shack, there is
a bit of color amid the
muck.

My cubical quad and
G5RV survived the
winter. My poor quad
is still only up two
tower sections.. I wish
we had enough FISTS
in my area to have a
tower raising party!
Luckily, quads do not
need a lot of height to
work well, so it's not
a crisis.

SPECIAL NOTE TO THOSE WHO SENT TO EUROPE FOR AWARDS:

Geo says that they are
currently \$250 in the
hole because of US
members who do not
send cash to cover the
awards and return
postage.

People have not been
following the instruc-
tions on the How Do I
page in each Keynote
and the Web page, and
are sending checks in-
stead of cash. **The
checks are no good
over there, because it
costs as much in bank
fees to cash them as
the check is worth af-
ter the exchange rate.**

When a check is sent to
them, they send a note
back with the award,
explaining that the
checks aren't worth
cashing over there, and
please send the amount
in cash.

Unbelievably, to me
anyway, only a small
percentage have reim-
bursed them the \$5 for
the cost of the award
and the postage!

If you owe money for an
award certificate,
PLEASE pay up! It's
not fair for everyone
else to subsidize your
awards. Don't send it to
me or our awards man-
ager, Dennis, K6DF,
send it to the British
Award Manager listed
on the How Do I page.
Thank You!!

This is a cute idea from
Paul, WA9PUP:

Are you tired of ex-
changing FISTS num-
bers, do you want to
really enjoy a FISTS
friendship? Here's
what I do, I call it my
Cultural Exchange
Program.

After exchanging the
usual info, try talking
about places or things
of local interest.
Through this you may
find you can "share"
something tangible
with the person at the
other end of the rig!

Arrange to ship each
other something with a
"local" flavor! I have
already exchanged
fresh south-central WI
cheese curds for a tin
of MO maple syrup; a
locally made "Syttende
Mai" coffee cup (any
Norwegians out
there?) for an Alamo
Fiesta coffee cup. You
get the idea! Doesn't
have to cost a lot, just
try to match gifts!
This, and follow-up
Emails are going to
make for a QSO you
will not forget!
73, Paul WA9PWP

Welcome to the New FISTS

#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor	#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
8138	KV4Y	BUD	SC	Webpage	8184	N5AV	GLENN	TX	W5TB/KKSNA
8139	N7LYV	JIM	UT		8185	K7AAA	FRED	OR	
8140	N2UI	TOM	NM		8186	VO1JVA	VERN	NF	
8141	NH6JC	MITCH	HI	Webpage	8187	WN8VIX	GEORGE	WI	
8142	KG4CNZ	ROBERT	KY	KE6IOI/W9PPK	8188	KG4GPG	BUCK	TN	Webpage
8143	WA2NFF	PAUL	NY	W5OS	8189	KC7TUP	DICK	ID	KF6QKI
8144	KA9NMK	DAVE	WI						
8145	K4KLQ	DENNIS	FL	Webpage					
8146	W3CK	MARK	PA	Webpage					
8147	WB0LBL	CASH	CO						
8148	WB4FDT	PIP	MD	K4UK					
8149	NX0X	BRIAN	MN	W5OS					
8150	WA2NPP	Rutgers Uni	NJ	KC2GZV					
8151	WA6KGB	JIM	NV						
8152	W5QAP	DAVID	LA	Webpage					
8153	N1RGP	GORDON	ME	N1NGM					
8154	KB1EVK	PER	CT	Webpage					
8155	N7QR	RUSS	OR	Webpage					
8156	KO4OP	RICH	VA	N9BOR					
8157	WB4OFT	JOHN	NC						
8158	KA1SAX	EDWARD	MA	W5OS					
8159	AA1KS	RICK	ME	AI5T					
8160	AB9BS	BOB	WI	Webpage					
8161	WA1FJT	LEE	CT						
8162	WA3NVZ	BOB	PA	WB2FXK					
8163	KF4YOM	JOE	TN	N4KN					
8164	WA2JM	JOHN	OR	Webpage					
8165	W2AT	RON	PA	Webpage					
8166	K7RF	JON	OR	K7WF					
8167	K7ARA	MIKE	AZ	Webpage					
8168	K1NNP	DON	CT	K4PTU					
8169	KA2HDO	HORACE	NY	N2WDV					
8170	KC5WYV	ANDRE	LA	N3YFC					
8171	W6JTA	BOB	CA	N5VOH					
8172	KC0JCF	GEORGE	MN	Webpage					
8173	WD5F	GERRY	TX	Webpage					
8174	N0KEY	RYAN	WI	N9BOR					
8175	W2GLQ	Nutley	NJ	K2GVC					
8176	KB3GEX	HARVILL	PA						
8177	AE4LZ	JOHN	GA	Webpage					
8178	N1EAV	GEORGE	MA						
8179	W7ZX	RALPH	WA						
8180	KD5MJJ	HANK	TX	Webpage					
8181	K9DSD	DAVID	VA						
8182	W3UWH	HAL	ME	Webpage					
8183	K9LJN	GARY	IL	Webpage					

Callsign Changes

7103 Duane - from W0RDA to WA0RDA
6936 Tom - from KC2FCT to W2TJT
7945 Harry - from N1CHT to W1HTU
8081 Nick - from KG6FFY to K6FFY
8054 Robin - from KA8VOW to NG8S
7905 Rick - from K1LOG to K7LOG

Code Buddy Transition Update

Could you please put out a notice to those who are waiting for code buddy program matches to the effect that the pile of applications I inherited is very large. I will get the matches out ASAP, but some may have to wait a while yet. I'm trying to make good matches rather than quickies.
Maggie WP2T

"FFF" Callsigns Still Available

As of the time this is going to press, Dan, KS6Z reports that the following calls are still available as vanity calls, if any clubs want to follow in the "FFF" club call trend:
K5FFF K8FFF K9FFF N0FFF N3FFF N5FFF N9FFF W0FFF W1FFF W3FFF W4FFF

Logging System for DOS

Does anyone know where Duane WA0RDA, can find a simple logging program for DOS? He uses DOS for his TNC and other programs connected with ham radio and he hasn't been able to find one.

If you do, drop him a note at his callbook address or email at Duane552@networksplus.net

WINTER SPRINT RESULTS

SCORE CALL NAME FISTS NR SPC

QRO Scores

17840	K4BAI	John	2158	Ga
17472	N1LN	Bruce	3525	Tx
11935	N6FE	Dave	2398	Ca
9690	N9BOR	Mike	4594	Il
8742	N6QS	David	3594	Ca
5798	K4UK	Stan	2934	Va
5456	N4PAC	Ben	5694	Nc
5336	WA2VQV	Russ	3179	Nj
5160	N6DF	Dennis	3076	Ca
4899	N8KC	Ken	1556	Mi
4853	WA6RND	John	3944	Ca
3979	N3RSD	Frank	2411	De
3780	K8CI	Richard	5270	Ct
3612	KM4FO	Dwight	3316	Ky
3213	AE2L	Joshua	1912	Nc
3186	K8KFJ	Gaerie	1732	Wv
3186	WA8YPY	Ruth	4590	Mi
2970	W3NGO	Dick	4016	Pa
2945	N7ZN	John	7076	Id
2592	N1YUK	Perley	4274	Me
2516	WA9PWP	Paul	2153	Wi
2125	KF4HAY	Neal	6204	Ky
2125	AF4LD	Gary	7653	Fl
2088	VE1ZAC	Jeff	2048	NS
2088	WB5KHC	Tom	7865	Tx
1920	AF4LQ	Mike	4139	Ky
1870	WK2T	Lee	6901	Nv
1768	VE7XF	Ralph	7492	BC
1638	VE3VGI	John	6261	ON
1455	KS0M	Dick	3067	Mo
1400	W9KMP	Ken	4626	Il
1400	N6IV	Mark	4056	Ca
1330	KU4BT	John	6215	Fl
855	K8MIA	James	4659	Wv
650	WA0OTV	Robert	7565	Mo
600	WL7WH	Bob	3420	Ak
558	KG9LZ	Tom	5769	Il
495	KI0ET	Fred	5168	Mo
455	WA1GCT	Roger	6841	Ri
400	W3TZW	Roy	3205	Pa
320	K7DU	George	5616	Wy
210	KV4BU	Art	7405	Fl
162	KF4ZEO	Jill	5493	Tn
150	WA3NSR	Robert	3396	Md
60	VE7YMM	Mark	5313	BC
5	KA1SAW	Neal	7036	Ma

QRP Scores

SCORE	CALL	NAME	FISTS	NR	SPC
7462	N4BP	Bob	7871	Fl	
4278	W0UFO	Mert	3823	Mn	
2380	KD7BOD	Michael	5355	Ut	
1988	K4YKI	Norman	2166	Ky	
1938	KC2AFK	David	3922	Ny	
1664	W1HUE	Larry	None	Id	
1358	K8JV	Jim	2372	Mi	
1050	KK7VD	Doug	7311	Wy	
1050	KD0CA	Jerry	7064	Ia	
880	KG4EMM	Terry	7058	Ky	
720	KJ5CR	John	5936	Tx	
715	N9MZZ	Walt	6950	Il	
670	K8CVC	Robert	3324	Oh	
495	AC7GM	Jerry	4678	Mt	
245	K9DIY	Millard	2798	Il	

CLUB Category

SCORE CALL NAME FISTS NR SPC

18603	W7DG	Lower Columbia ARC			
5777	Wa				
15336	W5DAR	Deming ARC	7500	Nm	
15281	W9FFF	FISTS of Illinios	6900	Il	
10080	W4MVZ	The Working Class Telegra- phy Club of W.Central Florida	7600	Fl	
7325	W7FST	Silver State Bugs	5900	Nv	
6312	W4FCR	Franklin Cnt ARC	7007	Va	
3360	K4FFF	FISTS CW Club of Florida			
7000	Fl				
1952	K5TCC	Tarrant County College ARC			
5365	Tx				

Winter Sprint Soapbox Comments

Mike, W4MVZ: I am not pleased by my score. It's less than the last Sprint. Condx were fine, it's the testers that screw up the production rate. You can't make headway due to the following: Slow Sloppy Sending, dummies that don't follow the outlined contest exchange, and guys who want to chit-chat. These types would never make it during the CQWW and ARRL CW TEST!! FISTS have attracted too many of these types of sluggish ops! After setting in a chair for 4 hours all I have to show for it is 2.5 pages of contest exchange... very poor!!

Ed Hayes, N7CFA: I had a great time. Used our club call, W7DG this time, so WA7YYY was not on the air.

Jess, AI9L: We had two operators working during most of the Sprint. KA9S, and AI9L both using W9FFF club station call for FISTS of Illinois. We worked England twice.

Steve, NU7T (Silver State Bugs): Shortly after the start, high SWR crippled our beam. We operated with the T2FD antenna, tilted terminated folded dipole.

Doc, W5TB (Tarrent County College ARC): As always the FISTS Sprints are great fun. Operated with the club call, KTCC while portable in Paris, Tx. K2 at 5 watts to 66' inverted Vee dipole up about 30' in a Pecan tree. SUGGESTIONS: Many scramble the exchange because RST is usually first, how about changing it to RST/SPC/Name/FISTS NR

Millard, K9DIY: One very pleasant aspect of this event, there were no ops speeding at 45-50 WPM.

John, KJ5CR: Great fun. Hope we can get it on the cover of the Keynote next time so more people enter.

Robert, K8CVC: Really enjoyed the Sprint, wish that I could have spent more time on the air, perhaps in the spring. Had to divide time between ham radio and the XYL who is recuperating from knee replacement surgery.

Terry, KG4EMM: My first real contest entry. Had a great time with my just finished Elecraft K1 running 5 watts to a ground mounted vertical. Plenty of stations to work, some of which were actually running under 75 WPM! hi hi While searching for CQ's I managed my "best yet" QRP-DX, VQ9PO in Chagos Island, Africa. (still looking on map for it to determine miles per watt). Great to see Sprint is now 4 times a year, FISTS needed more activities to keep it interesting.

Mert, W0UFO: Tough going. Much QRM, was it my QRP signal?

Missed some time eating lunch but had a lot of fun. My most valued contact was G0ORA, a real gentleman that QSY'ed out of the QRM to make a solid contact with me.

Doug, KK7VD: Lots of fun! My first FISTS Sprint too!

Michael, KD7BOD: Sprints are great but condx were up and down here during the Sprint. Noise levels going up like giant "noise-switch" (my teen aged son???) got flipped on, then would disappear as quickly. No 1-2-3 call areas, and oddly, no Ca.

David, KC2AFK: Enjoyed it a lot. Probably not a competitive score but fun. Certainly seemed to be a good number of participants. It was refreshing to hear ops call QRL? and pay attention to the response.

Norman, K4YKI: Got QSO started with Nancy, and you know it was the only QSO of the contest where we had QRM on top of the frequency!! We moved down a couple and completed the chat. Been waiting 4 years to work her. Overheard a California station say "we just had a small earthquake during that exchange".

Larry, W1HUE: Rig: Elecraft K2 at 5 watts. Ant: 450' end-fed wire up 20'.

John, WA6RND: More ops, had a good time.

Garie K8KFJ: I would have liked to see stations spread out a little more on the bands. For instance, everyone seemed to be ganging up around 14.058 causing some congestion and QRM for

some nearby nets. No reason we can't utilize more of the band. Just call CQ FISTS, we'll find you.
Paul, WA9PWP: Casual operating, for grins stayed on 10 meters. Activity was good, seems a lot of members "came out of the woodwork" for this one!

Ken, N8KC: Thoroughly enjoyed the Winter Sprint. Forst time I've ever done a 4 hour contest. My only experience till now has been Field Day each year for 10 years. Although Field Day is my favorite, these CW Sprints were a lot of fun. Being only 4 hours, I was able to work the whole contest alone and not feel guilty about wasting a whole day to make a decent score. I'll probably be back for more! As a side note, I never really tried for a CC# just like to rag chew, but now that I'm 45 numbers closer, I'll work on it.

Neal, KF4HAY: Had fun this time too and scored better. Hope my position in the scoring list went as well.

Dave, N6QS: Nice and friendly. QRM was an issue only once, and it wasn't caused by a FISTS. My sincere thanks to all who worked me. And we all owe Alan, W8FAX a big thank you! Without him, we couldn't have the FISTS Sprints at all.

Mark, VE7YMM: Propagation seemed good for the test, but no DX here. Perhaps thats because I only had 20 minutes for the Sprint. Perhaps there is an award for lowest score? hi hi

Dennis, K6DF: Great Sprint, great fun! Met old friends and made new ones. Good operators on all the bands!

Perley, N1YUK: Should be some incentive to club ops to put club call on the air. Maybe let ops use their contacts for credit on their own call?

Tom, KG9LZ: This is my second contest, and I had a little more time to work on it but did not try to hold a frequency. I found it enjoyable, and wish to each of you the best, and it was my pleasure to participate.

John, KU4BT: I was only able to make the last half of the contest. It was fun as usual. Been recovering from a bad flu here.

Art, KV4BU:

First contest of any kind, didn't make a lot of contacts, but had a great time.

Mike, N9BOR: Any operating event guarantees station problems, this was no exception. I enjoyed wild swings in SWR for the duration of the test. However, this will put me over the 500 point mark for the Silver Award! I even worked Nancy, WZ8C for the first time. Lots of fun and I'm looking forward to the Spring Sprint.

Dave, N6FE: Certainly the conditions were great here. Had a blast with very little interruption in activity. With many new 1st time FISTS contacts, I completed my Diamond Award requirements with lots to spare. This was the first time that I was able to spend all 4 hours at the key during the contest. Thanks for making the Winter Sprint an event.

Ralph, VE7XF: Might I suggest: "CQ FS" rather than "CQ FISTS". The exchange order be changed to RST/QTH (SPC)/Name/Number similar to the regular QSO exchange order.

Lee, WK2T: Thanks for the E-mail. I would have missed the sprint if you hadn't reminded me.

Robert, WA3NSR: I had only a limited amount of time but had some fun and picked up a few more FISTS numbers!

Dick, W3NGO: Considering the continued growing of the FISTS club plus the cold Saturday afternoon in February, I was disappointed in the turn out. Did so many forget about the Sprint? The Keynote should have been a week earlier. On the plus side, I had a good time!!

Bruce, N1LN: This was my second FISTS Sprint and the first from Texas. 20 meters was the most active from my QTH. Activity was good but not as much as I anticipated. Lets get the participation up for the next Sprint.

Ken, W9KMP: This second Sprint experience was more fun than the first. I am anticipating the

next one.

John, VE3VGI: What a great day for a contest. We had winds up to 100kph and temps at -20c. I sure appreciate the heat in the shack.

Mike, AF4LQ: I really enjoyed this one. This was my first FISTS Sprint and also a return for me to FISTS activity for quite awhile. Most enjoyable was the number of operators that took time to exchange some small pleasantries before moving on to the next contact. Quite a nice change from the usual slam-bam contest operations. Thanks for an enjoyable afternoon!

George, K7DU: Have no interest in scores, just like to get on and work a few stations. Run CW with vintage and home brew gear every day.

Dick, KS0M: I lost my beam rotor Saturday morning. The beam was turned to the east and would not move. My G5RV can't hear anything due to line noise so I was stuck with using the unmovable beam. FISTS members are supposed to be courteous and obey the rules. Three times I did not find that to be so. I was calling "CQ" and when someone replied, I worked him and then sent "TU QRZ TEST de KS0M". Instead of hearing someone call me, another call called the one I just worked. No doubt they heard me work the call I just worked anyway. Both parties should know better. You should never call someone on a frequency when he has answered a CQ, it is just not done, especially when you hear "QRZ CONTEST" sent. I did not fight it out with any of the three, but they should have known better.

Tom, WB5KHC: My very first contest and I've been licensed since 1973. Was fun, refreshing and everyone was not trying to see how fast they could manulate code. I'll do this again and I'll be better next time. I was really rusty and clanked a lot this time.

Bob, WL7WH: Very enjoyable contest. Nice when contacts take time to say hello and thank you. Wish propagation was better for me at these times. Thanks for your efforts.

Stan, K4UK: Missed the first hour due to a breakfast QCWA meeting followed by a tour of the local Public Radio Studio where one of our QCWA members works as a disc jockey playing Classical music. Really enjoyed pulling VK3DBD out of the QRM/QRN/QSB for a QSO. I really appreciate getting realistic signal reports from most of the members. Think it might be a good idea to add the CC# during the Sprints, to help members garner those needed CC#'s for the Platinum Awards.

Jill, KF4ZEO: Could only work an hour but I had fun.

Fred, KI0ET: First FISTS Sprint. Lots of fun and not as fast as I feared.

Mark, N6IV: It was nice to hear so many club stations during the contest.

Let's Do A Key Survey

I received this email from Tom, N4RS. He writes: Hi Nancy, Have you done or do you know someone that has done a good survey on paddles? I wonder if this is a never ending quest.....trying to find the perfect paddle.

In all my years as a ham 30+, I have never seen a FYO paddle for sale or have I ever seen one. Are they still around and can they be had...for any price? I'm trying to find something better than my old Bencher, before they got cheap and downsized the quality. Just got a Shurr paddle and it is not up to the Bencher. Beautiful piece of workmanship but the feel just isn't there. Have heard good things about Brown Brothers, Kent, G4???. Would be nice to have a good comparison to read and study. Tom N4RS

OK FISTS -- here's the request: Please send in your pros and cons on different keys of any type, and vote for your favorite key. Comment on any that you have an opinion about, but only send in one vote for a "favorite".

Be as specific as you can in describing what you like and don't like, that will give others useful information and help us understand what you mean. For example, the word "feel" can be interpreted many ways - do you mean it's too bouncy or loose, too stiff, not responsive, too clunky?...you get the idea!

Let's put a deadline on it for submissions....say the end of July. Then, I'll compile and publish the results in the following Keynote.

(If you know of a FYO paddle for sale, please let Tom know!)

Morse Communication On the Internet

Sid Vaughan N0DJJ (skvaughan@arrl.net)

A new free computer program called MorseMail is available to make possible Morse code via the internet. It's great for those who need code practice, and for those whose antennas make on-the-air contacts difficult. It opens up Morse contacts with others around the world, as well as allows one to hear their own code transmissions.

This program requires a Windows computer, with sound card and speakers. It also requires Internet Explorer 5.0 or 5.5 browser. It was developed by Harry Pyle AB7TB, who distributes it free on his web site: <http://www.seanet.com/~harrypy/MorseMail/>

The site shows operating instructions and a sample mouse modification. You can use the mouse buttons as a key, or install a jack to accept your paddles or bug. Instructions on the web site show how this is done.

There are several methods for mouse modification, including what I did. I soldered three 26 gauge stranded wires to the mouse ckt bd, bringing them out through a notch filed in the corner of the case. I terminated the wires in a stereo 1/4 inch inline jack to accept my paddles plug. By allowing about six inches between mouse and plug, I found the mouse is not hampered for normal use.

The program allows you to record a message, then play it back at any speed you select, or transmit to others using the program. You are shown other stations online at same time you are, as well as messages that have been placed on the message listing. You can select the speed at which you hear them. And you can exchange messages with others also online, but there is a small time lag after sending to allow the other to read and record a reply.

MorseMail is a simple program and only takes a minute or so to download the zipped file. If you

don't have a zip program to unzip it, you can buy one online at: <http://www.winzip.com/> (The cost is \$29.00 for the zip program.)

I have wanted to serve as a Code Buddy but have been unable to do so in the past because of my poor antenna. I'm not allowed an outside antenna in my apt. bldg. But with this program I can now do it on the internet. I believe MorseMail will do much to further the use of Morse Code.

If you get the program, look for messages to FISTS on the message list. And remember, I'm available as an internet Code Buddy.

Touch Lamp RFI

From George N1MKE: "I had the same RFI problem as G0UKK, with a touch lamp that would come on when I keyed my rig. I came upon a solution and solved the problem. Remove the bottom plate on the lamp base. There is a YELLOW wire going to the metal base, ground. Cut the wire and put in a 2.5 Mh choke in series, this should do the trick."

Special Delivery

On the morning of 24 Feb 01 I sent a Century Number Request list to Bob in England. A couple of hours later Bob responded with the Century numbers.

About an hour after I received the new numbers from Bob, I heard a station calling CQ on 14.058.

The call sign, KB2RQA sounded quite familiar so I call him, and started a QSO. After my QSO with Phil started I realized that his call was one of the calls I just requested and received a Century Number for ... so... I proceeded to give Phil his brand new Century Number over the air !!!

I think he was rather surprised !!! WOW! Talk about being HOT off the press ... 73, Dennis K6DF, NAFAM (North Amer FISTS Award Manager)

PEOPLE ON THIS LIST HAVE CARDS WAITING AT THE BUREAU:

Send some SASES to Stan Reas 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. The bureau cannot hold cards indefinitely - unclaimed cards will be returned to sender or thrown out.

The QSL is the final courtesy of the QSO - using the Bureau will save you money!

"2" - 135 Calls - 267 Cards

AA2AD,1 AA2VX,2 AB2FG,2 AB2GZ,4 K2AAD,1 K2ABX,1 K2CJ,1 K2CQV,1 K2HTY,1 K2IUC,3 K2JY,1 K2LGJ,3
K2MO,2 K2MYQ,3 K2PG,1 K2RES,8 K2RSK,4 K2YEW,7 K2YIY,1 K2YJL,2 K2ZFD,1 KA2MJV,3 KB2EE,1 KB2HKH,1
KB2LML,1 KB2NIF,2 KB2PVC,1 KB2SMW,8 KB2SRI,1 KB2SZB,6 KB2UKE,1 KB2UKF,1 KB2UZD,1 KB2VVB,3 KB2WYO,1
KC2AEF,2 KC2ANN,2 KC2BIS,2 KC2BYA,1 KC2CKI,1 KC2FVN,1 KD2A,1 KE2SV,2 KE2UK,1 KF2MU,1 KG2HA,1
KG2HK,1 KG2IC,2 KG2LL,1 KG2OK,4 KG2PE,3 KW2D,1 KW2R,2 KX2DX,1 N2AKZ,1 N2BR,1 N2BW,1 N2BZD,1
N2CEU,1 N2CQ,1 N2CUE,2 N2DFT,2 N2GFF,2 N2HCU,2 N2MUT,1 N2NCS,4 N2NTO,1 N2OFG,1 N2OHL,2 N2OTG,1
N2QCE,2 N2RXX,1 N2SX,3 N2UED,2 N2WNR,2 N2YVF,2 N2YXC,1 N2YY,1 N2YYM,1 N2ZHF,6 N2ZW,1 NB2D,1
ND2T,1 NM2A,2 NN2H,2 NR2C,1 NT2W,2 W2BIL,2 W2CGG,2 W2CUA,2 W2DO,1 W2EAG,1 W2FR,1 W2GF,9
W2NTS,2 W2OSY,1 W2PTF,1 W2QBR,2 W2STJ,1 W2SWN,1 W2SZR,2 W2TC,1 W2UQ,1 W2VX,1 W2WX,2 W2ZS,1
WA2CW,1 WA2D,1 WA2DAC,6 WA2DUV,1 WA2FJK,1 WA2FVL,2 WA2HNA,9 WA2JSE,1 WA2MBS,1 WA2NAF,1 WA2NZO,2
WA2VLW,1 WA2YMJ,1 WA2YMW,1 WB2ART,2 WB2AWR,1 WB2BXO,2 WB2GIN,2 WB2PPQ,1 WB2TOR,1 WB2UJS,1
WB2WZC,1 WB2YIP,3 WB2ZFG,1 WI2J,1 WK2T,18 WR2B,2 WW2G,1

"3" - 85 Calls - 162 Cards

AA3AW,4 AA3JU,1 AA3KR,1 AA3MD,2 AA3PW,1 K3AAA,2 K3ALS,1 K3AT,12 K3BR,1 K3DC,1 K3EGR,1 K3HXC,1
K3LR,1 K3LR,1 K3MD,1 K3ML,1 K3NLT,2 K3PBY,1 K3QQE,1 K3ROJ,2 K3TRM,1 KA3FHV,2 KA3FRY,1 KA3JCA,1
KA3ZXX,5 KB3AAY,1 KB3BHE,2 KB3BYT,7 KB3CBF,1 KB3CDF,1 KB3CPO,1 KB3DMA,2 KB3EFV,2 KB3ERI,3 KC3Y,1
KE3CA,1 KE3ILG,1 KE3ZZ,1 KN3ZOG,1 KP3W,1 KP3X,1 N3ATZ,1 N3BSK,2 N3BTM,2 N3CUM,2 N3EA,1 N3FX,1
N3GJM,2 N3IJR,3 N3JAF,1 N3NNH,2 N3SE,1 N3SFA,3 N3URO,1 N3VJV,1 N3XIM,1 N3XUJ,1 N3YQE,1 N3YSI,17
NA3RB,3 NC3S,2 NG3W,3 NP3SA,1 W3BUG,1 W3BUY,2 W3EB,1 W3EPR,2 W3FXR,1 W3HL,3 W3JBS,1 W3MMA,2
W3MNE,2 W3NRC,1 W3ROO,1 WA3GNW,2 WA3UNX,2 WB3EBN,1 WB3HOI,1
WB3LJT,2 WD3DLF,1 WJ3I,2 WN3C,2 WQ3RP,2 WX3L,1 WY3I,2

"4" - 165 Calls - 323 Cards

AA4YW,1 AC4YW,1 AD4PF,2 AE4AZ,2 AE4GH,1 AE4GX,3 AE4IX,1 AE4MG,2 AF4HK,1 AF4IX,3 AF4MT,1 AF4PL,1
K4AXF,4 K4BAM,1 K4BEV,1 K4EQ,2 K4FDK,3 K4FFF,2 K4HXM,2 K4IU,1 K4LAW,1 K4NSS,8 K4RKI,1 K4SFO,2
K4SGQ,1 K4SV,2 K4TP,2 K4UG,1 K4VNQ,1 K4YDK,1 K4ZDH,1 K4ZLE,2 K4WBT,1 KB4KKL,1 KB4LWT,2 KB4MFO,3
KC4DY,1 KC4OU,1 KC4SAM,1 KC4VEB,2 KD4DDI,2 KD4OGV,1 KD4OZB,1 KD4PUP,1 KD4RCY,1 KD4RXO,2 KD4SWQ,1
KD4VA,1 KE4COH,1 KE4EQW,2 KE4FPS,1 KE4FXT,1 KE4HBE,3 KE4IAR,1 KE4IPW,2 KE4NHP,1 KE4OFN,1 KE4PPI,2
KE4UYS,2 KE4VPN,2 KE4ZII,1 KF4DNL,2 KF4DPS,1 KF4EIB,1 KF4FBV,3 KF4FPG,2 KF4IZE,5 KF4PXW,3 KF4QBE,1 KF4T,1
KF4TPT,1 KF4UEX,2 KF4UNX,2 KF4WRF,2 KF4ZGH,1 KG4AQN,1 KG4ENR,3 KG4HTT,3 KG4IAV,3 KJ4N,1 KJ4SI,1
KJ4ZM,3 KM4CH,1 KM4LC,1 KM4LM,1 KO4A,5 KO4CO,1 KO4DR,1 KS4BG,1 KS4BX,2 KS4JL,1 KS4L,2 KT4MX,1
KT4ST,1 KT4VE,1 KU4AW,1 KU4AE,3 KU4GE,4 KU4NE,2 KU4RN,1 KU4S2,2 KU4WF,1 KU4WH,3 KV4BU,4 KZ4G,1
N4BM,2 N4BP,2 N4CQD,1 N4GD,4 N4GI,1 N4GYX,1 N4IHH,6 N4LK,4 N4NT,2 N4PGJ,2 N4RT,2 N4UIQ,2
N4VN,2 N4WUW,1 N4XHJ,1 N4XY,1 NB4J,1 NC4TT,3 NK4E,2 NV4T,2 W4DXB,2 W4FOA,2 W4HBC,2 W4IRE,2
W4KQ,1 W4NKP,5 W4NZP,1 W4PW,1 W4REF,2 W4TNV,1 W4UUU,1 W4VLL,1 W4VWH,1 W4WLG,1 W4BDZ,1
WA4CM,5 WA4FHG,4 WA4FOB,2 WA4GWX,1 WA4HHC,3 WA4ILO,3 WA4LXP,1 WA4RD,2 WA4SQM,1 WA4TOJ,1
WB4EKB,1 WB4FCO,2 WB4FSF,2 WB4FVN,2 WB4NBI,2 WD4DLF,4 WD4MIS,1 WD4RXU,2 WJ4P,1 WM4Q,9 WM4U,2
WS4Y,1 WT4TOM,1 WW4ML,1 WX4S,1

"5" - 178 Calls - 363 Cards

AA5HM,11 AA5OZ,1 AA5RI,2 AA5TB,1 AB5CD,1 AB5LX,1 AB5PC,2 AB5X,1 AC5CQ,1 AC5EZ,2 AC5F,1 AC5NF,2
AC5NL,14 AC5OD,2 AC5P,1 AD5M,1 K5APB,1 K5DLE,1 K5DQ,2 K5EOA,1 K5GP,2 K5HK,2 K5HT,2 K5HWT,1
K5IHV,2 K5IW,1 K5JAZ,2 K5KUD,1 K5KW,6 K5KWD,5 K5LG,7 K5LN,6 K5MDG,2 K5MOA,1 K5MU,2 K5MXQ,2
K5NU,2 K5OE,1 K5SO,3 K5UNY,1 K5XK,1 KA5AA,1 KA5IXR,1 KA5TRT,1 KB5IXI,1 KB5PGW,1 KB5TXV,2 KC5ASD,1
KC5DRH,1 KC5GAI,1 KC5HAC,1 KC5MXH,2 KC5NGX,1 KC5NL,1 KC5PHE,1 KC5TH,1 KC5UN,1 KC5VJU,6 KC5VMI,2
KC5VYE,1 KC5WES,1 KC5YDA,2 KD5ATE,1 KD5CB,1 KD5CKP,1 KD5CMN,2 KD5CRI,1 KD5EWB,1 KD5EWE,2 KD5FEG,1
KD5FIW,2 KD5FJE,1 KD5JWC,1 KE5C,1 KE5HL,1 KE5OU,1 KE5VK,1 KF5AAF,1 KI5HI,2 KI5IE,1 KI5SP,2 KJ5IF,1
KJ5ZN,1 KK5ED,1 KK5RG,12 KK5VH,1 KK5ZN,1 KM5DG,1 KM5SDT,3 KM5SHG,2 KM5WI,1 KM5WP,2
KR5C,1 KJ5V,1 KT5X,5 KZ5W,1 KZ5WZ,1 N5AAQ,1 N5BAX,1 N5CB,1 N5EKC,1 N5GD,1 N5GEN,1
N5GF,1 N5HOG,2 N5ION,1 N5JD,2 N5JWL,2 N5KE,2 N5KH,7 N5LN,1 N5MMB,7 N5NHR,1 N5NU,5 N5OE,2
N5PIJ,2 N5URL,2 N5VU,1 N5YAK,4 N5YWA,1 NA5C,3 NC5S,3 NI5V,3 NO5B,1 NU5X,4 W5AJS,1 W5B3H,1
W5BKQ,1 W5CDX,1 W5CHH,2 W5HNS,1 W5HQ,1 W5IBZ,3 W5JO,1 W5JUC,3 W5JVC,1 W5KIT,1 W5KOD,2 W5LII,1
W5MHM,2 W5NE,1 W5NV,1 W5OE,1 W5OJO,2 W5OM,1 W5OU,1 W5RP,1 W5RUK,1 W5SVU,1 W5TEN,4
W5TNT,1 W5TVW,4 W5UFT,1 W5XE,1 W5XU,1 W5XX,2 W5YSM,1 WA5ANF,2 WA5JKS,2 WA5UFH,5 WA5VJF,1
WA5WHN,1 WA5Y,2 WA5YBC,1 WA5ZJK,1 WB5CDX,1 WB5ICV,1 WB5MFI,1 WB5PBD,1 WB5QYT,7 WD5BVQ,2
WD5W,1 WN5FDS,3 WR5PK,2 WY5XX,2 WY5P,1

"6" - 140 Calls - 291 Cards

AC6AC,1 AC6DA,1 AC6GR,1 AC6KG,2 AC6PI,1 AC6SL,1 AC6TO,3 AC6UV,1 AC6YD,2 AD6CW,1 AD6EF,1 AD6ES,1
AD6GL,2 AD6HR,18 AD6KB,3 K6BMV,1 K6DWH,1 K6EKB,1 K6HRT,1 K6IX,1 K6JMB,1 K6JY,1 K6PBQ,1 K6QLZ,1
K6RPN,2 K6SRZ,3 K6TBW,2 K6TN,1 K6VOP,1 K6YB,1 K6YR,2 KA6A,1 KA6L,1 KA6LYD,1 KA6SAR,1 KB6JR,1
KB6MIR,1 KC6DKE,1 KC6JHV,2 KD6CC,2 KD6NOF,1 KD6NPA,2 KD6SX,2 KD6TQ,2 KD6UJZ,1 KE6CSL,1 KE6OF,1
KF6AHW,2 KF6AUO,2 KF6BAG,2 KF6DHB,1 KF6GCZ,1 KF6IE,1 KF6JWL,1 KF6KIK,2 KF6LOP,1 KF6MYS,1 KF6PGW,1
KF6QVP,2 KF6TIW,2
KF6UXD,1 KF6VGA,1 KF6ZZ,2 KG6AQ,4 KI6OY,1 KI6PR,1 KK6D,2 KO6BTQ,1 KO6VD,1 KQ6DV,8 KQ6HB,2 KQ6HW,2
KQ6NO,1 KR6AE,27 KT6DX,4 N6AD,3 N6CX,2 N6EAL,1 N6EED,1 N6ES,2 N6EV,2 N6FE,21 N6GA,2 N6HMM,1
N6JRL,2 N6JUG,5 N6KB,1 N6LDX,1 N6NT,1 N6NU,3 N6QZ,1 N6RQL,1 N6RUO,1 N6TT,2 N6VOH,2 N6YD,2
N6YL,1 N6ZBZ,4 NN6A,2 W6ABC,2 W6COS,1 W6DXC,1 W6EO,1 W6GAF,1 W6GP,1 W6HVR,2 W6IQ,1 W6JAR,1

W6JU,1 W6MMG,3 W6MWL,4 W6MWY,2 W6QR,2 W6RVY,1 W6RWI,1 W6RXU,1 W6WX,1 WA6ETF,2 WA6FEJ,1
WA6FGV,1 WA6IQM,1 WA6KND,1 WA6LOH,1 WA6MVV,2 WA6R,2 WA6RWI,6 WA6SAQ,3 WA6WRI,6 WB6BBX,1
WB6CYY,2 WB6FLD,2 WB6FRZ,1 WB6JXY,1 WB6M,1 WB6SCV,1 WB6WSO,1 WB6WVK,1 WF6Z,1 W16I,2 WW6Q,2

"7" - 78 Calls - 153 Cards

AB7AW,1 AB7KP,1 AB7OE,1 AB7RJ,1 AB7RK,2 AB7TU,1 AB7YC,1 AC7GM,1 K7FQ,1 K7HLR,1 K7PBT,1 K7PX,3
K7QO,5 K7SZ,1 KA7DBR,2 KA7IWX,2 KA7JSJ,2 KA7WXY,1 KB7AQD,5 KB7TMU,2 KB7TTY,2 KB7WTC,1 KC7DQV,1
KC7JRY,2 KC7NBM,7 KC7NOW,2 KC7V,3 KC7VAI,1 KC7VQD,3 KD7AKR,1 KD7BAB,1 KF7G,6 KF7TY,1 KG7A,2
KG7DK,1 KJ7NR,3 KJ7US,1 KK7EW,2 KK7GR,2 KK7KI,1 KK7LC,1 KK7RE,1 N7BQ,2 N7BYP,1 N7CVB,2 N7DOH,1
N7EF,2 N7EIF,1 N7ETC,3 N7KBJ,2 N7OPW,1 N7PY,1 N7RVD,4 N7YS,1 NS7E,1 NS7K,1 NT7G,3 NW7US,1
W7BQ,2 W7EVC,5 W7FHO,4 W7GS,3 W7HWR,2 W7IQO,1 W7IZE,3 W7JED,1 W7KJA,2 W7NTE,1 W7QQQ,4
W7VPK,1 WA7LNU,7 WA7ND,1 WA7QJY,2 WB7O,2 WB7PEI,2 WD7FJL,1 WS7M,1 WX7G,1

"8" - 177 Calls - 437 Cards

AA8DD,3 AA8DY,2 AA8GQ,2 AA8V,4 AA8YD,1 AA8YN,1 AB8CT,1 A18J,2 K8AJD,1 K8AN,1 K8BTH,2 K8BVJ,18
K8CV,5 K8DSS,2 K8GRN,1 K8IFU,6 K8IG,2 K8IRC,1 K8JD,9 K8JN,1 K8JV,6 K8KFJ,4 K8KIR,1 K8MIA,3
K8NQC,2 K8NVR,3 K8NWD,1 K8NY,19 K8OUA,2 K8QA,1 K8RJA,3 K8TJM,2 K8TL,2 K8VB,1 K8VT,2 K8WPI,1
K8WXQ,1 KA8CVH,2 KA8ZDL,1 KB8AHK,1 KB8BMR,1 KB8DRQ,1 KB8IAB,2 KB8KRD,3 KB8NHI,1 KB8NNG,1 KB8OOR,2
KB8RNM,1 KB8SBX,2 KB8THF,1 KB8TO,2 KB8UKF,2 KB8VWV,2 KB8WDX,2 KB8YQJ,1 KB8YRB,1 KB8BAA,1 KB8BOJ,1
KB8BSC,2 KC8CZ,2 KC8DEN,1 KC8EPA,4 KC8EVM,1 KC8FDP,1 KC8GCR,4 KC8GGU,2 KC8GTA,1 KC8GTX,3 KC8HT,2
KC8IMV,1 KC8JID,2 KC8JNL,1 KC8KBD,1 KC8KVV,1 KC8LJN,3 KC8MOC,2 KC8NOJ,1 KC8OEG,2 KC8Q,1 KC8WR,1
KD8W,1 KF8NS,1 KF8NW,1 KF8UE,1 KG8QO,2 KG8UY,1 K18CZ,1 K18JM,1 KK8B,4 KN8AZN,3 KR8P,2 KX8B,1
N8CPA,2 N8CQA,2 N8CX,2 N8DL,1 N8EN,1 N8ER,3 N8EV,1 N8FF,1 N8GI,1 N8GRM,1 N8IE,2 N8ILN,1 N8JW,4
N8MAT,1 N8NQC,2 N8NQQ,1 N8OW,1 N8PKC,3 N8QDK,1 N8QXE,3 N8RAR,1 N8RN,2 N8TDE,1 N8UIZ,4 N8VYS,1
N8VZ,1 N8WB,1 N8WRS,22 N8ZJ,1 W8CCN,1 W8CPN,2 W8CR,3 W8CSU,2 W8DEA,5 W8DL,3 W8DN,1 W8DP,1
W8DYE,1 W8FEJ,2 W8FYO,1 W8GWQ,1 W8HAP,2 W8ILC,2 W8JCS,27 W8JOH,3 W8JSN,2 W8KEB,2 W8MMM,1
W8OI,1 W8PBX,2 W8PCR,2 W8QOI,1 W8TP,1 W8VQ,2 W8WFB,1 W8WOJ,1 W8XF,1 W8XP,2 W8YM,1 W8YMO,3
W8BII,9 WA8DXB,1 WA8DXD,2 WA8JPR,1 WA8SME,1 WA8UCS,1 WA8VSI,12 WA8APR,3 WB8DWD,2 WB8E,4 WB8KQJ,1
WB8NYV,2 WB8OZX,24 WB8QLA,1 WB8SIW,2 WB8W,1 WB8WCU,1 WB8YQJ,2 WD8BSG,1 WD8JOL,1 W18K,1 W18Q,2
W08D,1 WS8S,4 WT8N,1

"9" - 117 Calls - 297 Cards

AA9CI,1 AA9KB,1 AA9RI,1 AA9SE,3 AA9TG,2 AC9V,1 K99DL,1 K99ZT,2 K9BUZ,1 K9CGD,1 K9CW,2 K9HE,1 K9IQ,1
K9LJR,1 K9NF,2 K9NI,1 K9PK,1 K9PWK,1 K9QVB,3 K9UCL,1 KA9CRF,2 KA9GXZ,1 KA9JBD,1 KA9NZI,1 KA9UZH,2
KA9YCB,5 KB9CHC,1 KB9GVY,2 KB9GXZ,1 KB9IMI,1 KB9IXT,2 KB9KWA,2 KB9LHW,2 KB9LSZ,1 KB9NMU,2 KB9PJS,1
KB9QKW,1 KB9RNM,24 KB9RPG,1 KB9TMI,1 KB9UKE,8 KB9WWU,2 KC9DQJ,1 KE9B,2 KE9GM,7 KF9VA,7 KG9AI,2
KG9AQ,1 KG9HE,1 KG9JD,1 KG9ML,2 KL9A,1 KQ9L,1 KQ9NN,1 KU9C,1 N9AEP,1 N9CBM,5 N9EP,1 N9GUJ,1
N9GUN,2 N9HE,2 N9LGG,1 N9MCQ,1 N9NTC,2 N9PSR,1 N9RY,3 N9TKE,1 N9TKS,1 N9TPR,1 N9TU,1 N9WAT,2
N9ZWY,1 W99OVK,1 W9AX,2 W9BM,8 W9BMC,2 W9BYH,9 W9CC,2 W9CEY,2 W9CL,5 W9DAF,4 W9DEW,2 W9DYG,12
W9EDS,1 W9EM,1 W9FET,1 W9FHA,1 W9HJW,25 W9HLX,1 W9III,2 W9LEN,4 W9MYZ,2 W9OCP,8 W9OVZ,1 W9SIO,9
W9SJS,2 W9VHL,2 W9YAE,1 W9YK,1 W9ZM,2 WA9PPK,3 WA9VNS,2 WA9WWU,1 WB9GRH,1 WB9HFK,2 WB9LPU,2
WB9OFG,1 WB9PEA,1 WB9PGW,1 WB9PIL,1 WC9T,1 WD9DSP,2 WD9DWE,12 WF9V,2
WPJCR,2 WU9F,2 WV9N,1

"0" - 62 Calls - 144 Cards

AA0EM,1 AA0PP,1 AA0SD,1 AA0YQ,1 AA0YX,1 AA0ZR,2 AB0CD,1 K0EVZ,11 K0FCG,7 K0NNN,3 K0OAL,3 K0RDF,2
K0RLM,1 K0VL,4 K0WNR,1 K0ZK,5 KA0EOS,1 KA0FZW,1 KA0TYB,2 KA0W,1 KB0DYY,2 KB0GGQ,1 KB0JTS,1
KB0LOK,1 KB0PTE,1 KB0R,7 KB0RMY,2 KB0TWL,1 KB0UNI,1 KB0VCC,2 KB0VMH,1 KC0CAN,4 KC0CCR,1 KC0CRA,2
KC0DUO,4 KC0EHH,10 KC0FQ,1 KC0FS,2 KC0GXX,3 KD0OK,1 K10EG,2 K10FM,2 K10MF,1 K10PH,2 K10SQ,1 K10I,2
NOBZM,4 NOGI,1 NOHFF,1 NOYSE,2 NF0Z,7 WOAGH,1 W0AW,2 W0DT,2 W0EUT,1 W0FF,2 W0GI,1 W0MYZ,2
W0NXS,3 W0QKR,1 W0ZQJ,3 WA0DTH,3

"VE" - 35 Calls - 50 Cards

VA2EDW,1 VA3CRA,1 VA3EJU,2 VA3ZG,2 VE1DS,3 VE2DCI,1 VE2OBK,2 VE3ABT,1 VE3BKJ,1 VE3CGJ,1 VE3DAO,1
VE3EDR,2 VE3EFJ,1 VE3FMY,1 VE3JIF,1 VE3JMY,1 VE3KXJ,1 VE3PUA,1 VE3SP,1 VE3TJE,1 VE4ACC,2
VE4UD,2 VE5JT,1 VE6JWA,2 VE6QX,3 VE7BLC,1 VE7CTW,2 VE7ERA,1 VE7ERE,1 VE7FPM,1 VE7FS,1 VE7HWR,2
VE7NI,1 VE7SIS,2

"DX" - 31 Calls - 65 Cards

AH7F,1 AH7R,1 AL7EV,1 AL7GQ,1 AL7JK,1 AL7O,2 AL7OK,4 CE8FGC,2 CX3CY,1 CX7CC,2 KH6GJV,1 KH6IHK,1
KH6U,2 KH7QM,2 KL7QOW,1 KL7RHJ,1 KL7V,1 KP3W,1 KP4RAT,1 KP4WE,5 LU9HU,2 P43HK,1 P43P,1 P43T,1
PY7COU,9 TG9ANS,1 TI5NW,1 V31FA,2 WH7N,1 XE2NJ,2 XE2TG,3

The total of the above is 1203 Calls = 2545 Cards. No data is available for "1" calls.
Over 2500 cards is a lot of cards to have unclaimed. This puts an extra burden on the QSL
Bureau workers, so please send in SASEs to Stan K4UK. 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA
24121. If you don't understand how to do that, drop Stan a note and he can explain it to
you. There is a link to the Bureau Web page thru the FISTS page on the Internet at
<<http://www.fists.org>>.

Well, once again, I'm out of room. Hope you had a good time in the Spring Sprint.... and Dayton,
here we come! Keep those cards and letters coming (email, too!) 73, 88, dit dit Nancy WZ8C



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

E-Mail: fists01@aol.com

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> or <http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/>

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW
32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT
AWARDS MANAGER: G0FRL
12 Cavenham Grove, BOLTON, BL1 4UA
PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY
CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO
86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
QSL Manager
Awards mgr
P.R.O.
Rally Coordinator
Secretary
Committee

G4PSE
G4XHZ
M0AVW
G0FRL
G4YLB
G4PPG
G3ZQS
G4MZS

NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS
US 0100Z on 14058
Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
Net Control G3HZL
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

GREETINGS

Chaos reigned here at 119 during March. Ivy spent near a week in dry dock whilst whilst they hacked bits of her away in the search for a suspect cancer, yours truly has been decidedly under the weather and although the bands were excellent, spent more time keeping warm than operating.

During the month, we have had a few resignations, generally due to a shift of interest but one members said he was sick and tired of being hounded off the QRP frequencies by FISTS members. Now over the past several months, I have had a tendency to check 7030 periodically and unless I have been particularly fortunate, I have heard absolutely nothing like this. I have however heard CQ QRP on 7028 or even 7027. On these occasions, most QRO stations would seek space elsewhere rather than be accused of causing deliberate interference. Could this be a case of not being aware of ones own TX frequency or is it perhaps indifferent calibration of a home brew receiver? Do we have some stations simmering over FISTS activity on 7028 convinced that this activity is centred on 7030? Would we still be accused of improper conduct if we called on 7026 but still managed to break through an indifferent receiver's front end which was tuned to 7030? If you wish to work the gang on 7028 and you are using QRP then please make your intentions clear. CQ FISTS de <CALL>/QRP.

We have been over this same ground so many times and still someone cries 'foul'. I can only look forward to the day when the 40M allocation equates with that in the US where (apart from Canadian SSB stations who seem to have been granted unlimited spectrum) there is sufficient space for relatively trouble free QRP operation.

AWARDS

Bob has asked me to remind you that ALL awards are £2.00 each and a reminder that this now includes the Century Award. He continues to receive claims with not even the return postage included and points out that the cost and effort required to send out a Century award is no different than for any other certificate. His address is on the banner.

RSGB TEST SERVICE WEEKEND

The time is drawing nigh for this very popular weekend organised by the RSGB Morse Test Service. This being the 15th. Anniversary. QRV 12/13 May/01, participating stations can be identified by their GB0 calls, usually signifying the county i.e. GB0IOW (Isle of Wight). The chief examiner will adopt the call GB0CW and his deputy GB0MTS.

A minimum of 27 stations are anticipated to be active over the weekend and the Anniversary Certificate will be available for contacts with at least 10 of the above calls. Cost of Cert is £2.50 (cheque or PO made out to RSGB), \$5.00 OR 6 IRCs.

Applications to: G4HNF, 116 Reading Rd, Woodley, RG5 3AD and please note that QSLs are not required to claim the award which is also available to listeners.

Activity will be concentrated in the 40/80m bands and to encourage newcomers, the team will be QRS in the novice CW segment of 80m.

Most of you will be aware that the event is not a contest and examiners will be happy to reply at any preferred calling speed. Use any type of key, dive in and enjoy a super friendly weekend.

WISDOM FROM WALES

Bill, GW0SGG, addressed the question of using a mechanical bug for QRS. His answer is affix an insulator choc-block on the end of the vibrator. Make sure when fixing it with as screw (or

screws) that it does not touch any other part of the key. Hold the key in the Dot position and adjust trembler to send a good long string of consecutive clean dots.

There have been many answers to this question over the years of course. My own was to mount a significant chunk of lead onto a croc-clip and try to strike a happy balance between the normal weight position and the added weight since QRS operation was usually only a temporary requirement; the advantage being that the position could be easily adjusted for a (admittedly narrow) speed range. Wasn't too successful though since the trembler needed to be adjusted for such a large speed difference but for those with a 'spare' el-bug, the change could be made permanent.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE SPACES GONE?

Whilst the bulk of the gang sent tolerably well during the SKW week, I did receive some criticism of members whose spacing left something to be desired. There was the usual crop of horse owners giving the name of their 'NAG' and it was suggested that sufficient of these 'howlers' could be encountered to constitute the basis of a book.

There were a few choice ones and to site them would be to point a finger but please keep an careful watch on those spaces. The fault is usually with characters following a terminal 'dah' though not always and sometimes, a space was introduced where there should have been none such as NNMA (CQ) or EEER (IF). MA becomes Q whilst 'AND' is frequently PD.

Out of the SKW, I challenged a station whose call began with DAAIO (yes, an accented A) as a pirate. Following a good deal of head scratching, this was finally broken down to DL2.

You don't believe me? Listen on the bands for what would seem to be a commercial station calling "FV FV". This is just plain sloppy sending and CQ should NEVER sound like that.

THE ETERNAL QUESTION

"What is the best key to buy"? Oddly enough, I still get this one thrown at me and probably will until they finally plant me. There is no such thing. You can pay an arm and a leg for some beautifully crafted piece with a glass dust cover and a special spot to dump your chewing gum. It feels great until one day you happen upon a piece of mid-thirties el-cheapo junk that fits you like the proverbial glove.

Here at HQ, there is deep and lasting love affair going on between my-self and a piece of NATO/RN brassware with a battleship grey casing. I love it but not many others do. Some time ago though I got my hands on a piece of maritime kit whilst visiting a friend in Pittsburgh. It was just the bare bones with bush bearings and the contacts (originally at least a quarter of an inch long) had been burned down to stubs through a lengthy period of keying a cathode. Trouble was that it belonged to a collector but Oh! the feel of that key. It was the last word. Don't be in a hurry. Insist on trying each key and do not be satisfied until you get that very positive feeling that 'this is the one'. It may be a Kent (though I doubt it), a Shure or one of those superb Swedish gadgets but one thing is for certain, at sometime or another you will find it pushed into second place by a piece of non-descript gear that doesn't look worth a second glance. Be warned!

CHANGE OF CALL

Peter, G0TCF, has modified his call to GM0TCF following a QSY ro Galashiels. Doesn't say if he is QRV yet but doubtless there will be a length of wire going up somewhere. With the thinning of the blood and the everpresent risk of chilling winds up the kilt, many Scots try to do the reverse and QSY to England to get out of the fridge so this makes something of a change. I would remind our newly licensed members to be wary of such modifications by checking the suffix rather than the whole call sign because this frequently trips up the unwary. We have one member for instance who periodically changes from GW to just plain G when his narrow boat takes him outside the realms of the little red dragon though one wonders what should happen if he moors up with one half in Wales and the t'other in Cheshire??

MEMORIA

The Spalding Club has acquired the call of G4OO (it's founder) for use as its Special Event Call. Jim, G0NTR asks me to publicise this to ensure that the call is not categorised as a pirate when active.

SMARTGROUPS

Confusion reigns in some quarters. The listings posted on the site (www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/) are in two flavours. Primary one of course is the dB III+ though ALLFISTS is also converted to a text file. The latter is copied as a .TXT file in Standard Delimited format but since the fields NUMBER, PREFIX and SUFFIX are 'tight' (the data tends to occupy the full width of the field) you will end up with no spaces and it looks a little confusing when displayed in a text editor. The best way to view these is to choose the dBase version and download the database viewer which is available on the same page.

This is a DOS programme which goes back many years but Windows will handle it from a DOS prompt. Use the command DBV.EXE -W <FILE> assuming that the dBase file is in the same folder. The addition of '-w' ensures that the display is in a scroll rather than a record view. Navigate to the top of the column you wish to search (<HOME> always takes you to the top of the file), press 'S' or 's', enter the string you want to find and it's as easy as that. I have also included a text file with these instructions which can be viewed in NotePad or any other text editor.

There is also a further file called 'DBFEDIT' should you wish to make amendments as well as viewing the data and this has an in-built help file.

The .DBF files are compressed and converted to a self extracting format which will open them fully. Be aware of the destination though when doing this and modify it if you wish to decompress to a different folder than the default.

NEW MEMBERS

7760	G3LPH	Ted	7761	SWL1	Dick
7762	MSAMG	Ryan	7763	JE1TRV	Atsu
7764	MONZA	Robin	7765	M0CUQ	Graham
7766	F5VGY	Hans	7767	9A2WJ	Daki
7768	G4AQZ	Geoff	7769	M0TRV	Trevor
7770	2E0RAF	Bill			

THE SWANSEA RALLY

Bill reports that it was better attended than anticipated and although falling below its peak of a few years ago was on a par with last year and registering some 700+ visitors. Traders from as far afield as Devon and Warwickshire exhibiting, must have considered the rally worth attending. 18 members signed in at the FISTS stand, all with most encouraging comments and Bill thoughtfully acknowledged the kind hospitality of the Swansea ARS.

A QUESTION OF HISTORY

Eric, G3LPS, seeks information on when the Call Book was first introduced in the UK.

Co-incidentally, he comments on a few members who respond to a CQ call with KN rather than K opining that KN should only be used AFTER a contact has been established. It is logical really. If the CQ was answered by more than one station and the caller responded to a different one then the KN is clearly not in order. It is important to establish communication first. I have had CQs returned with long strings such as "Nice to hear you agn Geo = it has been a long time de <CALL>" which sort of begs the assumption that others are unlikely to reply. Most though are less assumptive with a simple "Hw Geo? K" but I would prefer that communication was confirmed in the first instance.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HONESTY?

Members have always been encouraged to give accurate reports even (and indeed especially) in contest conditions. When you are chasing a report from a DX station it does absolutely nothing for you when your 5W to a random wire evokes a report of 599 and the target is running a kilowatt to a multi-element yagi and is shifting your S-meter needle to 7. Contests are great for evaluating the efficiency of your antenna but there hardly seems any point in offering other than a true report.

This was brought home to G3KSU during a couple of the RSGB cumulatives on 80m and 599 apart, he was frequently asked to repeat the details. He is drawn to the conclusion that the only 'honest' contests these days are those using QRP where 559 seems to be about the norm.

Are we frightened of offering a 'true' report for fear of offending someone? There would seem to be a small group of individuals (G3ZQS is included) who are seemingly causing deep offence. If a signal is chirping like some sexy sparrow then my report will likely be something like 597c. I will try to inform just how prominent the chirp is based on first a 500Hz and then a 250Hz filter. This is surely of far more value than a fictitious 599. The TX is cold and we find that on a 250Hz bandpass, the start of a reply is out of band. Shift to 500Hz without moving the VFO. If your contact is still outside the bandpass then he has a heck of a problem. Tell him! This way he will wait for a reasonable warm-up period before trying another QSO and if, by luck, he encounters another 'honest' report, he will be able to assess just how critical the warming up session is.

GX5IPX

G4PDJ. Chris is curious about the position of GX5IPX with regard to number and points value. I brought this to the attention of Bob, G0FRL, who suggested that an earlier number could be allocated. This is easy enough of course but there seems something improper about re-assigning the number from a Silent Key (I still shudder a little when using G3ZQS and quoting FISTS 0002) and other numbers are there to be reclaimed should this be required. It is therefore easier to allocate a completely new number to the call and in this case, following 2e0000, have assigned the number 7778 to GX5IPX. This means of course that as a club station, Chris's fist is worth 3 Century points. Hope this clears up the konfxn. Hi.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

Well, I am still at a loss to understand which combination of key-presses caused the wipe-out which occurred last month so I'm keeping my fingers crossed now.

G0WYW. David is cautious about answering CQ calls which are at a speed greater than he is able to copy and (wrongly I would say) assumes that computers are being used. This is in fact rarely the case until you get beyond the realm of 40-50 wpm because HSC members and many others take pride in the fact that they can converse at speeds within this range. If you recognise the call as FISTS then respond at your own speed - if the member is worth his salt, he will reply accordingly. G4MLW. A note of caution in Ian's letter. Do not be complacent about your own abilities. After a QSY, he went back to the old abode in order to remove antennas and fixtures. Working 30 feet up, he had removed three of the four pairs of angle brackets when a 'Rawlbolt' sheered causing him to take a short cut back to ground level. A patio table luckily intervened and he was rushed to hospital with serious head injuries and was fortunate not to lose an eye. The paramedics are

still pondering how he managed to avoid far more serious injuries especially if it had been an angle bracket and not the more benign patio furniture which interrupted his descent. Be careful out there people. G3VRU. I got 5 pages from Eric which under normal circumstances would have been reduced to just one. Eric however has severe visual problems and needed to use a heavy marker pen and what would otherwise equate to a 72pt type face. Met up with a kindred soul in the shape of Derek, G3DOV, during which notes were compared and mutual sympathies exchanged. Eric extends his apologies to the kind folks who sent him QSL cards and trusts they will understand that he simply cannot reciprocate since the 'bingo' pen hardly lends itself to the job in hand. G3KSU. Alan's love affair with QRP was touched upon earlier and reading, one gathers the impression that the Scots are more likely to possess 'decent' receivers than their G counterparts. At least, Alan finds them responding to his calls more readily than some folks across town but he promises to see what he can do about getting an antenna aloft. In the meantime, his thanks to all who took the trouble to decipher *'the weakest signal on the band'*. PA2DGR. I am still waiting for a more detailed description of the antenna which Hans is using and comprises two 6M fishing rods helically wound and mounted at 90 degrees to each other. Meanwhile, the German Army Radio Van (unimog, 1958) is completely resored and the Rhode/Schwarz transmitter plus Siemens receiver enjoy a new lease of life. He depends upon this set up for 80m activity so if you hear him, let us hope he didn't forget to put on the handbrake. G14CFQ. Hi Gary. The Junkers JU-88 is an excellent piece of engineering but note the earlier item about choosing your straight key. The wooden base and cavity of the Kent he finds off-putting. G3IUC. Regular QSOs with Charlie, G4PTU who hails from Blackburn and not a million miles from Darwen. These two may be found 'putting the world to rights' most weeks. A hint: For those interested, Boyes store in Scarborough are (at least at the time of his writing) flogging those fancy Radio Clocks - seek Rugby time sigs for reference - which were previously around the £70.00 mark for just £3.99. GM2AOL. Sam bought a Paragon from G8KW in the 80's and it has since developed a fault which has left him with only the LF bands and 10M. Following two attempts at surgery by two individual companies (both of which resulted in very short-lived cures) he turned to Ten-Tec who were not prepared to offer parts. During this period, his antenna system went belly up so he is now planning to be back QRV with a new rig and antenna. Hope we will soon be hearing sweet sounds emanating from Dundee Sam. G3CWW. Yes Tony, The prime cause of a sudden reduction in numbers is due to the reluctance of a large number of US members to renew on time each month. Nancy has no option but to mark them as defaulters following which, they come back steadily, restoring our numbers and augmenting the batches of new members which I get from her a couple of times a month. Infuriating. The list was at one point up to 17 pages but that was in the days when Nancy was not so quick to 'cull' so a lot of it was dead wood. Fear not. Our numbers still grow. At the present moment, Nancy is circulating the US gang and since they outnumber us by a large factor, it would be better to apply their recommended WARC spots. I concur re. nets. They do get kind of congested and waiting for your two pennyworth is somewhat akin to watching paint dry. Hi. M5AJJ. Ray confesses that his call may be heard on SSB or under G8VDD on VHF. However, he is waiting to take up the his Fathers' call of G2CD shortly though he may also be heard as KB7SGV when in the US.

THE IN-BOX

G3KSU. Alan lookid in on the ARRL cw contest (17/18 Feb) and found the bands packed with strong CW sigs. This time, many of them really were 599. Managed 28 States on 10m running 2 watts with a mag-loop. Odd how the bulk of US stations are prefixed 'K' rather than W or N. **G0JJQ.** Wayne, having fettled his antenna started to hear sigs on 80m again. Radio is not deaf after all - just a cattle trucked antenna. Pleasure to work G0GSY with a nice long chat. Came town to Wayne's speed - what a gent! **GM4HYF.** George had an overnight stay in hospital recently with a suspect heart attack though it would now appear to be angina. Caused a 'miss' for the February white stick tape but he placed February and March on opposing sides of the tape. MEGS he tells me is to apply for affiliation so will look forward to that George. **GM4ELV.** Dave is huntin' for a power lead for the HW7. If any member has a spare then he would be most obliged. His eye-sight is not good enough to read the schematic.

GW0VMR. Patrick worked Kostas, SV1DLS on 15M and was happy to record 559 for his 3 watts but after tidying up the log noticed that he had forgotten to PLUG IN HIS ANTENNA so the only thing connected to the rig outlet was an ATU. Would be interesting to know what sort of ATU performs like this. Hi. It is normally connected to an 80m dipole, vertical or endfed but just in case the worst happens, a 20m loop is concealed underneath the wall paper via an open wire feeder (plant labels). ATU seems to be a rats nest of 10m tubing and croc clips with a couple of variable caps which can be configured as CLC/LCL/CL/LC. The indoor ant works well from 30 to 6M and he would recomment it to anyone short of space - well either that or build his ATU which seems to work just as well.

OZ1HQG. Ryan retains this call but may also be found as OZ0RS. New QTH with G5RV (so as not to spook his new neighbours) but more to come I suspect. <oz1hqb@qsl.net>



USEVENT FORD-DAY MEMORIAL

From Stan, K4UK, I learn that a special event call WW2DDM is to be activated from 6/10 June commemorating the dedication of the D-Day Memorial in Redford VA.

Stan does not give details of times/frequencies however but more information is available from the web-site: <www.qsl.net/w4cfr/> and special QSL cards will be issued for contacts.

And here is K4UK who recently celebrated his 70th. birthday. Also shown is G0FSP at Ft Myers, FLA.:

ACTIVITY FROM FLORIDA

The photograph on this page arrived courtesy of G0FSP who spent over three months basking in the Florida sunshine. During his stay, he managed to work some 200 members (mainly on 10m) with a string-bag quad which produced a 599 for 5 watts report from GM.

ACTIVITY FROM SV5

Carl GW0VSW, will be active as SV5/GW0VSW from the island of Rhodes, June 16-30th. Activity will be mainly CW on all bands 40-10 meters. Operation should be around 0500 and 1600 UTC family permitting. The rig will be an IC706 with dipole antennas. Look for Carl on the IOTA and QRP frequencies. QSL via homecall. Looking a wee bit far ahead for this one of course but perhaps a sticky note on the rig would be in order?

QSL CARDS

I am rapidly running out of the stock material for the original (yellow) cards and am hesitant to re-order because I have purchased an A3 ink-jet printer which will permit me to produce a much more attractive card. Shall have to ask a little extra to cover the ink since we will not be getting too many out of a pack and re-coop the cost of the printer but it will be minimal (perhaps £1.00 per order) whilst offering a more colourful QSL on white 160gsm board.

The reverse of the card has been simplified and will be pre-printed by a local printer at very favourable cost.

WANTED

Jerzy, SP3DG, would like to build a QSK rig around the Russian 2Y745. Anyone got a suitable circuit?

FINALE

Does anyone know the source of the data t/c around 10.120? This appears in short bursts following a regular period of silence. No idea what it is but it is very wide band and strong enough to throw the S-meter to near maximum.

Again, my apologies for the late distribution of this letter. As I mentioned, we have had a few problems here and the results of the tests on Ivy indicated that urgent surgery was necessary. She will be going in to dry dock on the 2nd April for the removal of what is strongly suspected to be a malignant growth. This has put me into quite a tizzy but indications are that there should be no real problem since the growth has been spotted at quite an early stage.

As I write this, the trees are showing leaf, Magpies and Crows are going into the construction business and the squirrels are playing their annual game of catch-me-if-you-can. Sadly, no song birds are in evidence right now which gives me cause for concern since round here, the tits are usually prominent and nuisance though they may be, there are no starlings.

Have a smashing month people. Enjoy this beautiful spring weather and if time is available I will be active during the QRS contest.

73/88 es stay sober

FISTS CW CLUB, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DATE IS ON YOUR MAILING LABEL
in the format of year/month/day**

Are YOU due to renew your subs??

Upcoming Events:

FISTS Summer Sprint

1700 UTC to 2100 UTC, second Saturday in July

Dayton Hamvention

Third weekend in May

FISTS Booth is #100 on the ramp between the main arena and the cafeteria

Get-together Friday night at the ARCI-QRP Vendor Night

**If you move, PLEASE let us know! Is there a typo on your mailing label? Tell us!
The P. O. charges sixty cents if your label is addressed incorrectly.**